



DORCHESTER
Recreation & Parks

Dorchester County, Maryland

Program Open Space Annual Program FY 2021

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The FY 2021 Annual Program for Dorchester County uses the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan of 2017 as its compass for selecting appropriate projects to further enhance and develop Dorchester County's natural and physical resources. Driven by data collected from citizens, combined with the support of our Recreation and Parks Advisory Board as well as local governmental departments, goals identified in the LPPRP of 2017 will again be priority projects contained within this FY 2021 Annual Program document.

The last year has presented conditions that have challenged us locally and globally. During these particularly uncertain times, we have all been required to adapt and look at nearly every aspect of life from new and different perspectives. We continue to adjust our course as we navigate an ever evolving societal landscape. As our paradigm shifts and we have changed the way we do business, there have been some very beneficial advancements that without these circumstances, may not have come to fruition as quickly as we have seen. The amount of communication and cooperation between people and agencies has made a quantum leap forward. Recreation and Parks Directors and professionals from jurisdictions throughout Maryland are now meeting virtually on a regular basis to share ideas, experiences and strategies. This exchange has been an invaluable source of information for our Recreation and Parks Department in Dorchester County. We look forward to staying connected with colleagues everywhere and keeping abreast of current best practices for serving citizens and residents of Dorchester County.

Opportunity also presented itself very unexpectedly to Dorchester County in the past year when the possibility of acquiring a property with an existing and established indoor recreation facility was made available. In contrast to most jurisdictions, Dorchester County has no community recreation center alternative. This is a unique opportunity for Dorchester County to acquire a turn-key property, currently geared toward recreation and physical fitness. As identified later in this Annual Program document, Dorchester County is looking to move forward with this acquisition project and capitalize on an unanticipated opportunity.

The FY 21 Annual Program was developed with these guidelines in mind:

- The 2017 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan
- The Maryland Planning Act of 1992
- Citizen input from public workshops as summarized by AECOM to help shape Dorchester County's Comprehensive Plan

The LPPRP of 2017 details in Chapter 3 – Recreation and Parks, Section VI. – Capital Improvement Plan the identified needs for Dorchester County. This section presents these needs in chronological format categorizing them into short term and extended goals. Pages 57-61 of the LPPRP indicate a projected time line for addressing the identified project goals.

Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Planning

As set forth by state law, participation in the POS funding program requires that long range plans be developed and updated by local county governments. The county proposes the encumbrance of \$25K from its FY 2021 land acquisition allocation account in an effort to prepare us for the development of the next LPPRP slated for delivery in 2022. This will help our county inform the development of the coming 2022 LPPRP.

515 Leonard Lane Property Acquisition (Map A) Tax Map 0300; Parcel 1027 (Reference position #1 on attached County map)

The LPPRP of 2017 notes gaps in facilities and / or services. Lack of programming, and facility access are cited as areas of need. As previously noted, unlike other counties, Dorchester County currently has no recreation center facility. Acquisition of this parcel would allow for the introduction of new and additional public recreational programming for all age groups, youth through senior citizens. This property would serve as an invaluable recreational asset and be a major step forward in regards to our capacity to serve the residents of Dorchester County. Successfully completing this acquisition project would align perfectly with Vision #5 in the Planning Act of 1992. This would most certainly conserve resources by utilizing an existing asset and no additional parcels would need cleared for construction.

Sailwinds Visitor Center Park Improvement (Map B) Tax Map 0303; Parcel 5183 (Reference position #2 on attached County map)

Sailwinds Park is located just off of U.S. Route 50 near the foot of the Choptank River Bridge when entering Cambridge from the north. Sitting on the shore of a two mile wide section of the Choptank River, this park is a stunning attraction that draws both local residents, as well as thousands of tourists and visitors each year. Being such a prominent recreational venue in Dorchester County, the LPPRP of 2017 prescribes a commitment on behalf of the County to forward initiatives that enhance this public asset. Public / Private collaboration between the Dorchester County Departments of Recreation and Parks, as well as the Department of Tourism, in cooperation with the Sailwinds Park Inc. board, has spurred much interest in enhancing the park's amenities. An initial goal to improve the aesthetic look and feel of the park is to re-locate a "Mommy and Me" swing feature to a more suitable area contained within the existing playscape. In so doing, appropriate safety surfacing will be installed beneath this feature to coordinate with existing safety surface. This project goal aligns with the Planning Act of 1992 by addressing Visions #1 and #3. Also, as this park lies immediately adjacent to the Dorchester County Visitor Center, in reference to Vision #4 of the Planning Act of 1992, it is difficult to find a more picturesque location where people have a better opportunity to learn about, and practice stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay and the land.

Cornish Park Renovation (Map C) Tax Map 0302; Parcel 2443 (Reference position #3 on the attached County map)

The majority of Cornish Park in Cambridge, MD. Is built on a 0.78 acre parcel. As a recreational venue, this park accommodates a large number of nearby residents. A current initiative being spearheaded by the Cambridge planning department is to complete a comprehensive renovation of the entire park facility. The basketball courts at this park have over the years played host to various large tournaments and see a great deal of use on a daily basis. As basketball is a preferred recreational outlet for many youth and adults alike, and as natural wear and tear have occurred due to being exposed to the elements over many years, the courts and equipment require updating. Supporting this improvement to the basketball courts would be a valuable contribution to the overall outcome of the park renovation project. The 2017 LPPRP recognizes basketball programs as a community identified priority on page 55. Just as Vision #5 of the Planning Act of 1992 seeks to conserve resources, we want to preserve the courts we have. This also pertains to Vision #4 because in preserving existing resources, the need for new or additional impervious surfaces can be minimized.

Madison Public Water Access Development (Map D) Tax Map 0050; Parcel 0028 (Reference position #4 on the attached County map)

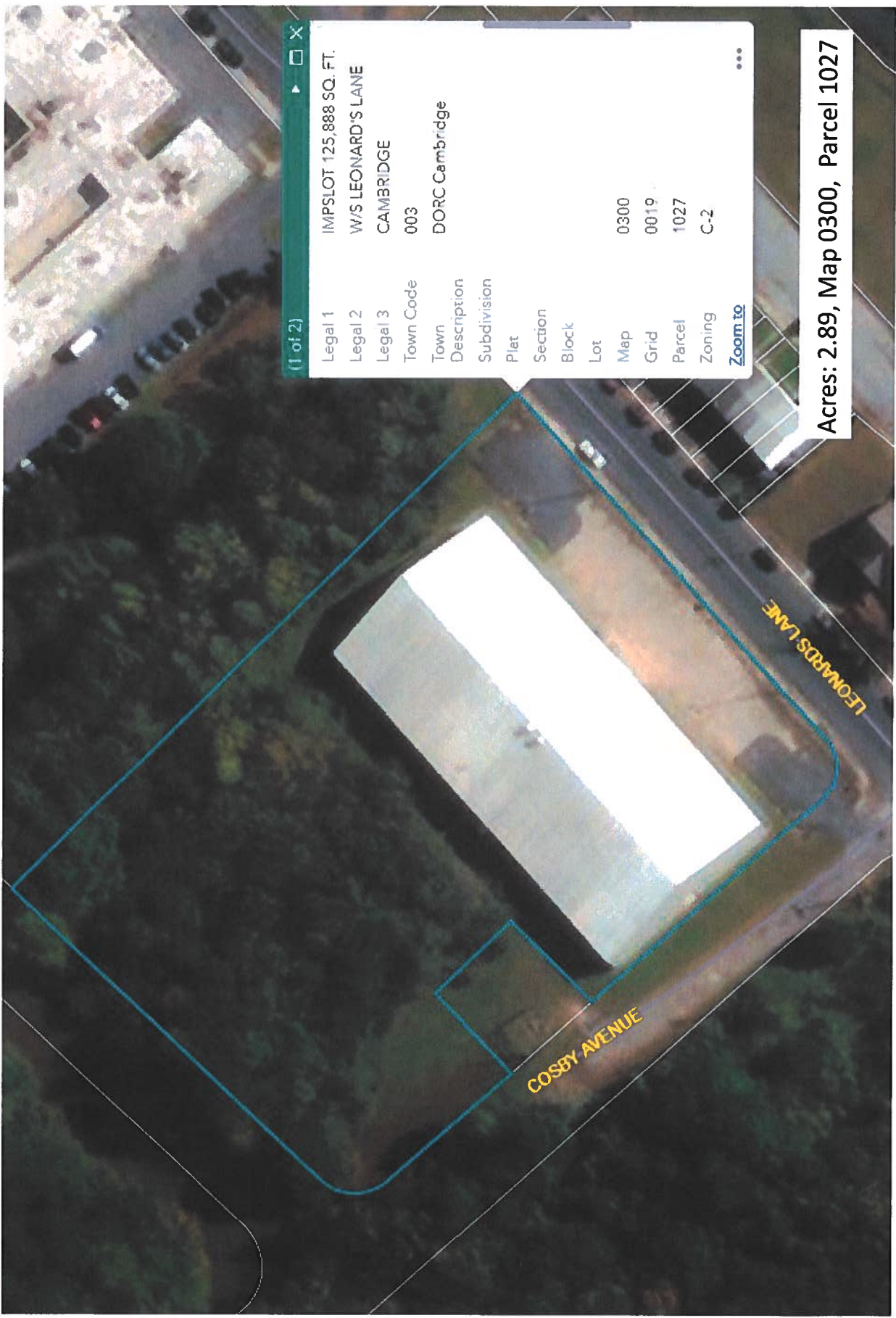
This development goal was identified as a priority for FY 21 in Dorchester County's 2017 LPPRP. Currently there exists a boat ramp adjacent to the EMS/Fire Station and Madison Campground. Users of this facility have access to Madison Bay, the Little Choptank, and the Chesapeake Bay. At this site there is a pavilion and picnic area available as well as a moderate amount of available parking. Vision #4 of the Planning Act, which focusses on the stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay, aligns with the objective of responsibly maintaining and enhancing this facility in order to encourage additional access and usage.

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[illegible]



Map A - 515 Leonard Lane Property Acquisition



Acres: 2.89, Map 0300, Parcel 1027



Map B - Sailwinds Visitor Center Park Improvement



Acres: 2.7, Map 0303, Parcel 5183



Map C - Cornish Park Renovation



Acres: 0.78, Map 0302, Parcel 2443



Map D - Madison Public Water Access Development





Dorchester County Map

